



FACT SHEET

Office of Public Affairs; 102 E. Hill Blvd; Room 224; Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154; DSN 673-5608 or (843) 963-5608

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB

The 437th Airlift Wing, together with our Reserve associate wing, the 315th Airlift Wing, provides a large part of Air Mobility Command's Global Reach airlift capability. This rapid, flexible and responsive air mobility promotes stability in regions by keeping America's capability and character highly visible.

Mission

The mission of the 437 AW is to command assigned airlift and supporting units; provide for the airlift of troops and passengers, military equipment, cargo and aeromedical airlift and to participate in operations involving the airland or airdrop of troops, equipment and supplies when required.

Apart from its heavy airdrop commitment and a demanding humanitarian mission, Charleston AFB's mission requirements range from supporting U.S. Embassies to supplying humanitarian airlift relief to victims of disasters, to airdropping troops into the heart of contingency operations in hostile areas.

Team Charleston's vision is to provide the premier airlift force for America from the world's premier base... **One Family! One Mission! One Fight!**

Personnel

Charleston AFB has more than 7,800 active duty and Air Reserve Component military and civilian personnel. They include approximately 3,700 active duty, 2,700 reservists, and 1,300 civilians. About 16,700 military retirees make their home in the Charleston area.

Economic Impact

Charleston AFB's economic impact on the local communities in fiscal year 2002 was more than \$549.6 million. The FY 02 payroll was \$114 million and approximately 2,700 indirect jobs were created by the base in FY 02. The estimated annual dollar value of new jobs is \$82.4 million. In FY 02, Air Force reservists assigned to the 315th AW spent nearly \$3.2 million on hotels near the base. The base spent \$143.6 million dollars on jet fuel in FY 02, making it the base's costliest expense.

Aircraft

Charleston is home to 53 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. A C-17 crew consists of pilot, co-pilot, and loadmaster. Cost per unit is approximately \$207 million. The C-17 has a cruise speed of 518 m.p.h. at 28,000 feet (Mach .74). It also has a global range with in-flight refueling. Its maximum load is 170,000 pounds, and it can fit two large buses, three helicopters, one of the Army's newest tanks or other outsized cargo. In addition it features heads-up display, can airdrop both cargo and 102 paratroopers, and is able to land on small, austere airfields—landing in as short as 3,000 feet.

Base Facilities

Charleston AFB has 234 buildings, totaling 4,882,745 square feet. There are 1,352 housing units on base for officer and enlisted personnel and their families. There are seven dormitories, with 587 bed spaces, for un-accompanied noncommissioned officers and airmen. Temporary lodging facilities have 178 bed spaces, including 160 in visiting quarters and 32 in aircrew alert facilities. The buildings and real property on Charleston AFB are valued at \$281.0 million, and the land is valued at \$2.1 million.

Base Facts

Charleston AFB is a joint-use airfield, sharing two intersecting runways with Charleston International Airport. The primary runway is 9,001 feet long and the intersecting runway is 7,000 feet long. The base maintains the two runways and most of the taxiways, and security and crash rescue response for all flights.

Charleston AFB was the first fully operational C-17 base in the Air Force. The base is constantly involved in the Denton Amendment program flying humanitarian aid on available missions to worldwide destinations in more than 13 countries. From October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002, the Denton program moved 428,534 lbs in 25 missions.

Charleston AFB either prepared or moved 80 percent of the cargo for the Denton program. Charleston has seven 60-K Tunner loaders that can easily transport and load heavy, palletized cargo on all aircraft. Additionally, Charleston AFB has more than 4,821 computers and 636 government owned vehicles.

Organizations

The 437th Airlift Wing is comprised of four groups:

- **437th Operation Group** distinguishes itself by projection of America's global reach through direct delivery, airdrop and air refueling.
- **437th Maintenance Group** dedicated to performing organizational and intermediate-level maintenance on all assigned C-17 aircraft; also provides total logistics support for the wing.
- **437th Mission Support Group** provides morale, welfare, security, housing, lodging, engineering, communications, food services, disaster preparedness, and much more base support for 61 organizations. **437th Medical Group** supports combat readiness through training quality-managed health care for area beneficiaries.
- **437th Airlift Wing** includes a variety of agencies that directly support the wing commander, group commanders and the base population.

Three tenant units also share the base, 315th Airlift Wing (AFRC), 1st Combat Camera Squadron, and 373rd Training Squadron, AETC.

Current as of July 2003